REMARKS

The specification has been amended to add the priority information. The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. New claims 20-36 find support in the original claims as filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. Entry of the amendments prior to examination is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at 650-838-4410 if prosecution of this application would be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

This application claims priority to application no. PCT/JP01/00782 filed 02 February 2001, now publication no. WO 01/57204 published 09 August 2001; which claims priority to JP 25596 filed 02 February 2000, which are both incorporated herein by reference.

In the claims:

3. (Amended) A gene transfer vector according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the virus is derived from a virus belonging to a family selected from the group consisting of [:] Retroviridae, Togaviridae, Cornoviridae, Flaviviridae, Paramyxoviridae, Orthomyxoviridae, Bunyaviridae, Rhabdoviridae, Poxviridae, Herpesviridae, Baculoviridae, and Hepadnaviridae.

5. (Amended) A gene transfer vector according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 4], wherein the gene transfer vector is prepared by a method which comprises the steps of:

mixing the virus with an exogenous gene; and

freezing and thawing the mixture two or more times.

6. (Amended) A gene transfer vector according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 4], wherein the vector is prepared by a method which comprises a step of mixing the virus with an exogenous gene in the presence of a detergent.

7. (Amended) A gene transfer vector according to claim 5 [or 6], wherein the method further comprises a step of inactivating the virus.

10. (Amended) A gene transfer vector according to [any one of] claim[s 1 to 9] 5, wherein the method further comprises a step of adding protamine sulfate to the exogenous gene.

11. (Amended) A gene transfer vector according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 10] for introducing a gene into animal in vivo tissue.

12. (Amended) A gene transfer vector according to claim 11, wherein the tissue is selected from the group consisting of[:] the liver, skeletal muscles, the uterus, brain, eyes, carotid arteries, skin, blood vessels, the lung, the heart, kidneys, the spleen, cancer tissue, nerves, B lymphocytes, and respiratory tract tissue.

13. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for gene therapy which comprises [the] a gene transfer vector [according to claims 1 to 12] containing a virus envelope.

14. (Amended) A kit for screening gene libraries, which comprises [the] a gene transfer vector [according to claims 1 to 12] containing a virus envelope.

16. (Amended) A method for preparing a gene transfer vector comprising a virus envelope for gene transfer, wherein the method comprises the step[s] of:

mixing the virus with an exogenous gene in the presence of a detergent.

17. (Amended) [A] The method according to claim 15 [or 16], further comprising the step[s] of inactivating the virus.

18. (Amended) A method for introducing a gene into isolated animal tissue, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

preparing a gene transfer vector [according to any one of claims 1 to 12, containing] containing a virus envelope and a desired exogenous gene; and

introducing a gene into the isolated animal tissue via the gene transfer vector.

19. (Amended) A method for introducing an exogenous gene into a suspended cell, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

mixing the suspended cell with [the] a gene transfer vector [according] containing a virus envelope [to any one of claims 1 to 12] in the presence of protamine sulfate; and

centrifuging the mixture.